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CHINA: BUSH-LI PENG MEETING

Q: Why did President Bush decide to meet with Chinese premier Li Peng in New York this Friday? What will they discuss?

A: -- PRESIDENT BUSH WILL MEET WITH ALL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ATTENDING THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL SUMMIT, INCLUDING PREMIER LI.

-- IN KEEPING WITH THE LONGSTANDING ADMINISTRATION POLICY OF CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH CHINA, THE MEETING WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OUR CONCERNS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE.

-- THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH LI WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD ON THE RESULTS OF SECRETARY BAKER'S NOVEMBER TRIP TO BEIJING, DURING WHICH CLEAR PROGRESS WAS MADE ON NUCLEAR AND MISSILE NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE, AND SOME GAINS MADE ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

-- FOR EXAMPLE, THE CHINESE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO COMPLETE RATIFICATION OF THE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY BY APRIL, HAVE PLEDGED TO ABIDE BY THE GUIDELINES AND PARAMETERS OF THE MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME, AND HAVE AGREED TO MEASURES WHICH WILL EFFECTIVELY PROTECT AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.

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-- THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SOME RECENT POSITIVE STEPS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RELEASE OF SEVERAL PERSONS IMPRISONED FOR THE PEACEFUL EXPRESSION OF POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, AND EXIT PERMISSION FOR SEVERAL DISSIDENTS AND THEIR RELATIVES.

-- HOWEVER, MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THAT RESPECT, WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS RICHARD SCHIFTER WILL MEET WITH CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER ^{RY}~~RY~~ DIRECTOR QIN HUASUN TODAY TO CONTINUE OUR ONGOING HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE.

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